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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Benin, Canada, Ecuador, Eritrea, Fiji, Grenada, Indonesia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Micronesia (Federated States of), Namibia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia and United States of America: draft resolution

Unauthorized fishing in zones of national jurisdiction and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas

The General Assembly,

Inviting all members of the international community, particularly those with fishing interests, to strengthen their cooperation in the conservation and management of living marine resources in accordance with international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1/

Recalling Agenda 21, 2/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in particular chapter 17, concerning the sustainable development and conservation of the marine living resources of areas under national jurisdiction,

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1/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.V.5.

2/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

Recalling also the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, 3/ adopted by the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, in particular chapter 4, concerning the sustainable development and conservation of the coastal and marine resources of areas under national jurisdiction,

Noting that, in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development 4/ the international community recognized that the special situation and needs of developing countries, particularly the least developed and those most environmentally vulnerable, should be given special priority,

Expressing deep concern at the detrimental impact of unauthorized fishing in zones under national jurisdiction, where the largest share of the global fish catch is harvested, on the sustainable development of the world's fishery resources and on the food security and economies of many States, particularly the developing countries,

Taking note of recent discussions, at the international, regional and subregional levels, on fishery conservation and management measures, and on compliance with and the enforcement thereof,

1. Calls upon States to take the responsibility, consistent with their obligations under international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, to ensure that no fishing vessels entitled to fly their national flag fish in zones under the national jurisdiction of other States unless duly authorized by the competent authorities of the coastal State or States concerned. Such authorized fishing operations should be carried out in accordance with the conditions set out in the authorization;

2. Also calls upon development assistance organizations to make it a high priority to support efforts by the developing coastal States, in particular the least developed countries and the small island developing States, to improve the monitoring and control of fishing activities and the enforcement of fishing regulations;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all members of the international community, relevant intergovernmental organizations, the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, regional and subregional fisheries bodies, and relevant non-governmental organizations;

4. Also requests the Secretariat to submit to the General Assembly, at its fiftieth session, a report on the steps taken and on problems encountered in the implementation of the present resolution, and thereafter as may be determined by the General Assembly.

3/ Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda).

4/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development ..., resolution 1, annex I.